

**Name:** Aquamarine Tales

**Collection:** Celebrating Art and Supporting Artisanhip

**Cultures:** Turkey, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Lebanon, India

This handmade tribal art necklace comprises a variety of cultures and carries, between its beads & threads, historical evidence of a world on the verge of extinction.

The base of this necklace is made with aquamarine beads. This celebrated gemstone named after the color of the sea, inspires truth, calmness and stability. Believed, in ancient times, to be the stone of mermaids, it was used by sailors as a protective talisman.

The two crochet circles are handmade by a local artisan in Beirut, Lebanon. The woman who made them lives alone and works in textiles to make a living.

The coin is an antique Ottoman. It was once attached to the scarf of a Bedouin woman, somewhere in the Levant, around 150 years ago. Women from the region always preferred to carry their riches on their bodies –both to show off, protect their money and preserve their independence.

On the other side is a cowry shell from the Indian Ocean. Because of their shapes, cowry shells are believed to protect from the evil eye and to promote fertility. It is no wonder that they are therefore planted on scarves, clothes, home accessories, animal wear, etc.

The centerpiece is Yemeni metal beads. They are around 60 to 80 years old and they come from a larger bridal necklace. Today, these beads are increasingly rare to find, as they belong to a world that disappeared with the latest wars in the region.

The short tassels in the middle are Uzbek. They are around 60-80 years old and they once adorned the borders of someone's tapestry. The tassels on the sides are made by Rabari women. The Rabaris are a nomadic tribe roaming the North-Western desert of India. They are well-known for their spectacular, colorful textiles and beautiful silver. These tassels are 40 to 60 years old and they originally adorned traditional dowry bags.

In a world of technology, globalization, and consumerism, this necklace stands as a call for authenticity, uniqueness, distinction and culture. This necklace is for you, the woman who can communicate the kinship stories, our ancestor's stories, but also the woman who appreciates beauty and cherishes her originality. It is entirely handmade and is a one-of-a-kind piece, just like you.

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